

BARASCH LEGAL SERVICES LLC

**4227 Orchard Hill Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110
dbarasch@comcast.net
717-215-5666**

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street.SW
Washington, DC 20554

August 3, 2011

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG
for consent to assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations
(WT docket No. 11-65)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As an attorney and regulatory policy professional with more than 35 years of both public and private experience, I am pleased to have an opportunity to offer my views on the above captioned matter.

By way of background, I served as Consumer Advocate for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between 1983 and 1990, advocating on behalf of Pennsylvania utility ratepayers before both state and federal regulatory agencies. During this time, I also served as both President and Vice-President of the National Association of State Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) between 1985 and 1989, frequently representing the policy views of NASUCA before federal regulatory agencies and Congress.

In addition, between 1990 and 1993 I served as senior regulatory policy advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey. Finally, between 1993 and 2001, I was the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

From my years as an advocate for the public and as a policy maker representing of those who lack the resources to properly advocate on their own behalf, I know the vital importance that regulatory agencies like the FCC play in assuring that the broad public interest is represented.

We know all too well how people suffer when they lack the basic tools needed to live in today's society. Traditionally, things like education,

access to transportation and sufficient resources of food, shelter and clothing were the bare necessities needed to obtain a better life. Today, another basic resource—access to information and the skills and knowledge necessary to utilize this new necessity—has become just as critical to Americans seeking full participation in our society.

Today, many jobs formally require these information-age skills and they are nearly always necessary for success. The average citizen today needs high-speed internet access to locate and apply for jobs, obtain needed education or job training or even to find out which bus lines to take to work. High speed internet access is an essential gateway to many opportunities that most of us can take for granted today.

I hope that as you consider the merits of the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will consider the positive impact it would have on the lives of those who don't currently have access to wireless broadband. It is my understanding that AT&T has promised that the merger would allow it to extend its next generation of service to millions of Americans who do not have this access now.

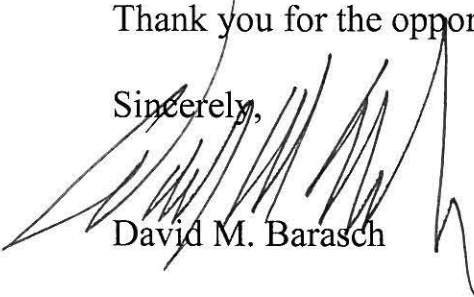
Pennsylvania is usually considered a Northeastern industrial state. Ironically, our state has the largest number of citizens of the United States living in rural areas. Throughout the great middle of this state, there are large remote areas where it is difficult and expensive to provide wired Internet service to every door. The expansion of wireless broadband deployment would greatly alleviate this access problem. Access to this service is fast becoming a near necessity with the explosion of demand for smart phones and tablets. To compete effectively, people throughout this Commonwealth need to be connected wherever they are.

From a public policy perspective, our central concern here must be with those who lack access to the information highway and, thus, a vital tool to a better life. The AT&T / T-Mobile merger and AT&T's stated commitment to a major private investment in our infrastructure would bring us closer to realizing President Obama's goal of providing 97% of the country with broadband access.

For these reasons, I hope you will give the merger your close and favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views.

Sincerely,



David M. Barasch